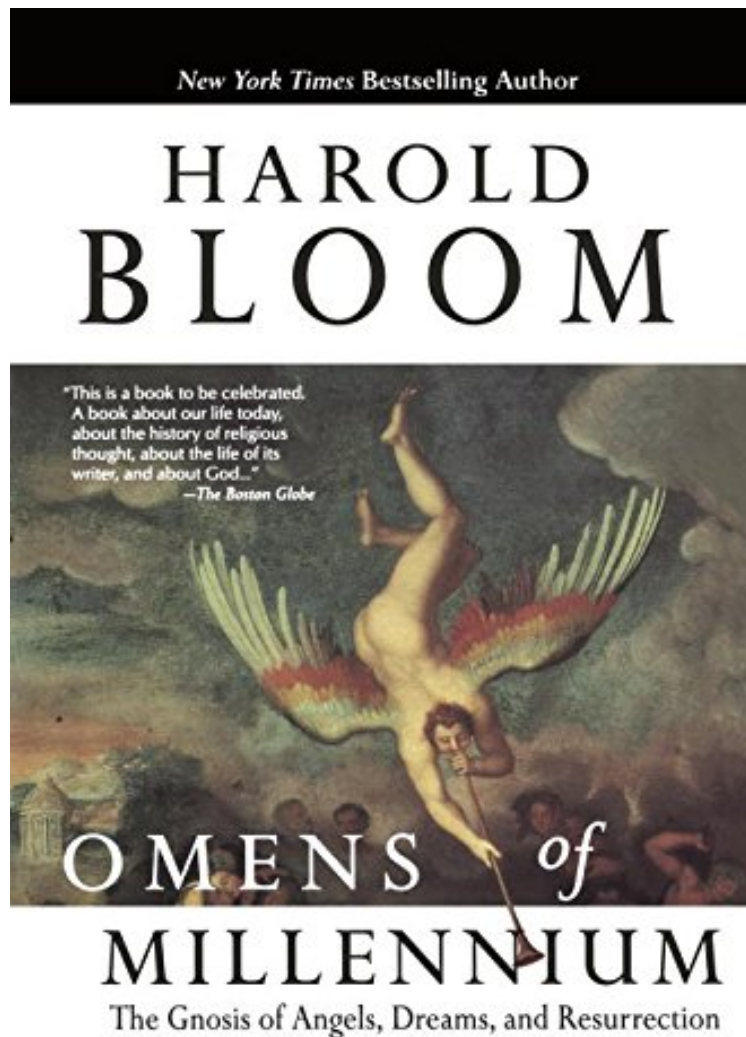


Omens of the Millennium: The Gnosis of Angels, Dreams, and Resurrection

Harold Bloom

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Harold Bloom : Omens of the Millennium: The Gnosis of Angels, Dreams, and Resurrection before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Omens of the Millennium: The Gnosis of Angels, Dreams, and Resurrection:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. open mind toward other realitiesBy Ralph S. ashbrookBloom is a clear-thinking critic who seriously considers the mystical content of much Eastern tradition a fascinating and thought-

provoking read6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Bloom TriumphantBy Larry HedrickYes, Harold Bloom can be infuriating at times, as when he finds Mormonism to be intellectually rigorous and shoves Jung aside as hardly worthy of comment. Yet OMENS OF MILLENNIUM has tremendous heart, and I, for one, feel, well, blessed that Bloom has spent untold hundreds of hours sounding out the depths of gnosticism so that he could return with something to enrich all our lives. For Bloom is himself a gnostic prophet in this book, and his connection with the inmost mystery of life is astonishing. I have never read such an honest and hard-won work. In comparison with this, what usually passes for spiritual discernment in America at this time is the merest piffle. Everyone is free to imagine that they inhabit some lofty plateau from which they can observe the grunting, sweating Bloom with superiority and amusement, but there are places in this book that will take you closer to the light than anything written in the last century. It will be your very great loss if you read OMENS OF MILLENNIUM with a mind that is less than fully open.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great bookBy cooperandreThis book is very insightful, like other reviewers I do not agree with a few things, but over all the book is filled with interesting and historical views on Angels, dreams, resurrection, and religion. I really enjoyed the section on near death experiences, and Freud's ideas of dreams were a bit strange but I am not well read on Freud's psychoanalysis work however sometimes I wonder if he was drinking a bit too much Absinthe. I am also far from anything of an expert on Judaism, Islamic Sufism or basically any other beliefs outside of Catholic or Christian, so the chance to learn a bit on all of them was a wonderful opportunity. The last section there was some part that he brought up the fact that some religions predict the end of the world, like Millerites and Jehovah's witnesses by the way how many times did they predict the world was going to end? I have to ask them the next time they come to my door. Over all I have to say what a wonderful book.

In this impassioned, erudite, and provocative work, Harold Bloom, bestselling author and America's foremost literary and cultural critic, examines society's "New Age" obsessions: angels, prophetic dreams, and near-death experiences. Omens of Millennium traces these cultural phenomena from their ancient and traditional origins to their present-day, millennial manifestations. In addition, it is a personal account of Bloom's Gnosticism. Certain to educate, challenge, and entertain, Omens of Millennium is as fascinating as it is timely.

.com Angels, prophetic dreams, and resurrection -- as we approach the millennium, American culture is increasingly fascinated with what many consider to be "new age" phenomena. Yet our current millennial preoccupations are derived from the ancient Hebraic, Christian, and Sufi traditions; they are neither ephemeral nor trivial. They have inspired and captivated the greatest of Western thinkers, from antiquity to Milton, Blake and Shakespeare. What are the angels? And where does our notion of them originate? What role have dreams played in the history of human consciousness? What is the link between angels, prophetic dreams, and near-death experiences? How are these phenomena relevant to us today, as we approach the 21st century? In this commanding and impassioned inquiry, Harold Bloom draws on a life-long study of religion and, in particular, of Gnosticism, the knowledge that God is not an external force but resides within each one of us. Through the ancient literature of Jewish Kabbalah, Christian Gnosticism, and Muslim Shi'ite Sufism, he reveals to us the angels not as the kitschy cherubs we know today, but as magnificent, terrifying, sublime beings who have always played a central role in Western culture. He allows us to feel their splendor, and to experience the powerful role that dreams and near-death experiences have held throughout the centuries. And in the dazzling final chapter, he delivers a Gnostic sermon in which he urges us toward transcendence. In Omens of Millennium, Harold Bloom has written a book whose triumph is not only its synthesis of centuries of religious thought, but its deep spirituality, through which we come to know - and to mourn - a religious experience no longer available to us. A brilliant and provocative book, sure to engender as much discussion as his books *The Western Canon* and *The Book of J*. From Publishers Weekly A fascination with near-death experiences, alien abductions, angels and prophetic dreams has reached a "particular intensity" in the U.S. as the millennium approaches. Or so says Bloom (*The Western Canon*) in this dazzling, maverick study in literature and comparative religion. Pausing often to unpack his own religious convictions, which are rooted in Gnosticism, a mystical belief system whose elusive history he traces to early Christianity, Kabbalistic Judaism and Islamic Sufism, Bloom contends that such "omens of the Millennium" are in fact debased forms of Gnosticism. Gnosis, he writes, is a spiritual orientation at odds with orthodox religion. It eschews faith in an outward God for knowledge of the divinity of the deepest self and retells the story of creation as a fall away from a Godhead and a Fullness that, Bloom says, is more humane than the God of institutional religion. Contrasting the "inspired vacuity" of New Age writers like Arianna Huffington and Raymond A. Moody to authentic Gnostic authors (who, according to Bloom, include ancient sages like Valentinus, medieval Kabbalists like Isaac Luria and more modern writers like Blake, Emerson and Shakespeare), Bloom explores how images of angels, prophecies and resurrection have always mirrored anxieties about the end of time, and how these images have been domesticated by popular culture. Bloom frequently injects himself into his study, discussing with rueful irony his own experiments with the outer limits of consciousness, including his own "near-death experience" (in a hospital while convalescing from a bleeding ulcer). The final chapter is a Gnostic sermon on self-transcendence. This book's brevity and eccentricities (Huffington and Moody are easy targets who don't exemplify the range and

complexity of New Age thought) diminish its force as polemic. As a critical performance, however, it's a tour de force, highlighting a secret history of mystical thought whose visionaries and poets call out to each other over the centuries. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal With the approach of the year 2000, people are turning to spiritual phenomena such as angels, dream interpretation, and near-death experiences. Bloom (The Western Canon, LJ 9/1/94), a self-proclaimed Gnostic, seeks to show that the connection between these concerns and the coming millennium can best be understood by tracing their development from ancient Zoroastrian spirituality through Christian Gnosticism, Muslim Shi'ite Sufism, and Jewish Kabbalism, into contemporary American religious culture. Within this "context that can serve as a spiritual standard of measurement," he portrays much of the current popular fascination as insipid, debased, and commercialized, especially in the United States. He synthesizes insights from a broad array of sources—including the Bible, the Kabbalah, the Koran, Jewish and Christian Gnostic texts, Shakespeare, and Freud—as he develops his thesis. If not always convincing, his work is enlightening, engaging, and often personal. For general and informed readers. Craig W. Beard, Univ. of Alabama Lib., Birmingham Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.